

## MINUTES OF TTF CG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Telecommunications Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TTF CG) was held on July 14, 2004. The following people were in attendance:

### MEMBERS

Jane Lawton OCCS (240) 777-3724

Pat Hanehan MCPS (301) 279-3609

Dave Niblock DPS (240) 777-6252

Steve Batterden DPW&T (240) 777-6063

Helen Xu DTS (240) 777-2804

Jennifer Bryant OMB (240) 777-2761

Jim Krause WSSC (301) 206-4209

Carlton Gilbert M-NCPPC (301) 495-4576

### STAFF

Margie Williams OCCS (240) 777-3762

Robert Hunnicutt CTC (410) 964-5700

David Randolph CTC (410) 964-5700

### OTHER ATTENDEES

Steven Weber T-Mobile

Mike Budde Network Building & Consulting/T-Mobile

John Kinnally Network Building & Consulting/Nextel

Tim Boyce Sprint PCS

Jose Cruz Sprint PCS

Rich Rothrock Network Building & Consulting/T-Mobile

Hillorie Morrison Network Building & Consulting/T-Mobile

Brian Bolt WFI/T-Mobile

Sharon Levine Montgomery Village Foundation

Discussion Item - Meeting Attendance: Jane Lawton noted that the last meeting was very low in member attendance, and thanked all members for making today's meeting. She said it was important for as members as possible to attend each meeting to ensure the group has the quorum necessary to take action on agenda items.

Discussion Item - June 16, 2004 Minutes: Pat Hanehan moved the minutes be approved as written. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

### Consent Agenda Items:

-Mobile application to attach nine 54" panel antennas at the 45' and 49' level on the walls of the 41' MEP building located at 15800 Crabbs Branch Way in Rockville (Application #200407-01).

-Mobile application to install nine 54" panel antennas (six antennas now, three in the future) at the 102' level on an existing 108' PEPCO transmission line tower #611-N located at 13139-T Colton Lane in Gaithersburg (Application #200407-07).

-Mobile application to attach nine 54" panel antennas (six antennas now, three in the future) at the 120' level on an existing 150' Sprint monopole at Sherwood High School located at 300 Olney Sandy Spring Road in Sandy Spring (Application #200407-08).

-Mobile application to install three antennas inside the monopole at the 95' level of a 120' monopole on Goshen Church property located at 7700 Brink Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200407-10).

Jane Lawton stated she would like to discuss items #2 and 3 and asked that they be removed from the consent agenda.

Pat Hanehan asked that item #6 also allow discussion.

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved that items #1, 4, 5, and 7 be recommended. Steve Batterden seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Action Item - Agenda Item #2: T-Mobile application to pole mount nine panel antennas at the 58' level on the walls of a 45' Hampshire West Apartment building located at 1415 Hampshire West Court in Silver Spring (Application #200407-02).

Jane Lawton asked why this application was considered a By-Right attachment to a building which did not appear to meet the minimum height requirement for the zone. Bob Hunnicutt explained that because the apartment building was zoned multi-family, not residential, it only requires a minimum height of 30 feet, not the 50 foot minimum required for residential zones.

Ms. Lawton asked how the antennas would be attached to the roof. Dave Randolph explained these were pole-mounted attachments, which raise the antennas above the roofline at a height of no more than 15 feet.

Ms. Lawton asked if there was a height limitation for antennas above a roof. Mr. Hunnicutt replied he knew there were size limitations for antennas but he was not aware of any limitation as to how high above the roofline antennas may be placed. He recalled that some County locations (the World Building and the Verizon Central Office in Silver Spring, for example) had lattice towers atop them. Dave Niblock stated the Department of Permitting Services' position is that they do not approve attachments directly on rooftops where the antennas are more than 15 feet above the roofline. Bob Hunnicutt added he did not recall the TTFCG recommending any pole-mounted rooftop antennas greater than 15 feet above the roofline.

Motion: Pat Hanehan moved the application be recommended. Steve Batterden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item - Agenda Item #3: Sprint PCS application to install three 63" panel antennas at the 126' level on an existing 134' PEPCO transmission line tower #102-S located in the 8700 Block of Snouffer School Road in Gaithersburg (Application #200407-04).

Dave Randolph summarized the application and noted there had been community interest in this siting, and community associations near this facility had submitted a list of questions to the applicant regarding landscaping around the site, whether the equipment cabinets could be enclosed within a fence, and questions regarding the RF aspects of this site.

Jane Lawton noted that a representative from the Montgomery Village Foundation and the East Village Homes Corporation present at the meeting, and said she would like to hear their comments regarding the siting after the applicant had a chance to address the questions raised by the residents. Ms. Williams distributed copies of the correspondence to the members.

Mike Budde stated that PEPCO did not permit landscaping beneath their transmission line towers or fences around equipment cabinets, and that was the reason Sprint did not propose landscaping or a fence for this site. He stated that this was a By-Right attachment, and he believed that he had addressed the questions in his reply to the associations that Ms. Williams distributed at the meeting. Ms. Lawton asked how far the PEPCO property was from the adjacent residents. Mr. Budde replied that to the best of his knowledge, PEPCO typically acquires a 250' foot tract of land for two towers to accommodate their transmission lines, and they are placed in the center of the tract at an equal distance apart. This would place the towers approximately 80-100' from the side property lines. He added that there were residences on both sides of the PEPCO right-of-way in this area and that the East Village organization was closest to the side where Sprint would be placing its equipment.

Ms. Lawton asked the North Village representative to comment on whether Sprint had adequately addressed their concerns. The representative replied that aesthetics were a concern for the community. He cited a Nationwide Project Management Agreement which stated that the height of antennas above existing structures could be no more than ten percent of the total height of the structure, that no more than four individual equipment cabinets or one large equipment cabinet could be placed at the base of the tower and could extend no more than 20 feet from the tower. He stated the residents also objected to the addition of the roadway and grading at the site, and that they were unsure of what the future might hold for additional equipment either from Sprint or from other carriers.

Ms. Lawton asked about the nature of the roadway and why it was necessary. Mr. Budde stated it would be a one-lane gravel roadway, which Verizon requires so its employees may have vehicular access to Verizon's equipment for the landline interconnection with the cellular antennas.

Ms. Lawton commented that she did not believe there would be a significant aesthetic impact just from the antennas because they would be at the top of the tower and blend in with the equipment supporting the existing electrical lines. She asked if the equipment cabinets were the main objection of the residents. The North Village representative agreed that the equipment was more objectionable than the antennas, but reiterated that he was not sure what future antenna attachments may look like on these PEPCO facilities. Mr. Budde commented that any future attachments by Sprint or other carriers would have to be reviewed by the TTFCG, and those issues could be addressed at that time.

Ms. Lawton stated she did not understand why PEPCO would not permit landscaping to screen the equipment cabinets from residents, and asked the Tower Coordinator to contact PEPCO to find out. Bob Hunnicutt agreed to contact the PEPCO representative and ask but he recalled that these questions were raised at a meeting several years ago, and the PEPCO representative in attendance at that time stated PEPCO did not permit landscaping around these facilities because of the need for maintenance and trimming and PEPCO's interest in minimizing potential fire hazards, and did not allow fences because it interferes with access by PEPCO staff to the towers. Mr. Budde added that he would contact PEPCO to see if they would make an exception to this case to accommodate community requests for screening at this site.

The North Village representative stated that the fence would also be helpful to prevent access to the equipment by children. Mr. Hunnicutt noted there were "no trespassing" signs posted along the PEPCO right-of-way, but he understood that children often do not pay attention to notices. Ms. Lawton agreed that a fence would be a good method of preventing access to the equipment. Mr. Budde said he would check with PEPCO about permitting a fence as well as landscaping at this site.

Ms. Lawton asked Sharon Levine of Montgomery Village Foundation if the Foundation had taken a position on this matter. Ms. Levine stated it had not.

Helen Xu suggested that if landscaping used to screen the cabinets was of a variety that did not grow very tall, it could minimize PEPCO's trimming concerns.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item - Agenda Item #6: T-Mobile application to install three 54" panel antennas at the 60' level on an existing 70' Sprint monopole at Tilden Middle School located at 11211 Old Georgetown Road in Rockville (Application #200407-09).

Pat Hanehan stated he only pulled this item from the consent agenda because it was a school site and he would abstain from the vote on this application.

Helen Xu asked why this facility had a light pole. Jane Lawton explained that there was originally a shorter light pole at this location, but it had been replaced with a taller structure and the lights were reattached to the new facility, but, referencing the photograph of the site and the large size of the structure as constructed, she asked if there was any resident opposition to the structure. Pat Hanehan replied that this facility went through the Mandatory Referral process without comment from the public or the Board. He noted that Planning Board staff had commented about screening the equipment, and the Board had requested a board-on-board fence around the shelter and that the shelter be placed away from the tree "drip" line. He noted that T-Mobile also

planned to comply with those requirements, and its fence and landscaping would match what was already at the site.

Motion: Jim Krause moved the application be recommended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to add a 5' false chimney to the top of an existing chimney and enclose three antennas inside the false chimney of this 36' St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church building located at 9100 Colesville Road in Silver Spring (Application #200407-03).

Dave Randolph summarized the application and noted that since the time the application packets were mailed to members, T-Mobile had notified the Tower Coordinator that the false chimney needed to be raised to a height of 18' above the existing chimney rather than the 5' height stated in the application. Jane Lawton asked why such a tall structure was needed. Steven Weber stated that the antennas needed to be at that height to rise above the roofline and the surrounding trees. She asked if antennas had been attached to any other chimneys of that height. Bob Hunnicutt stated there had been an attachment to a tall chimney at Hildarose Avenue, where Nextel proposed to attach antennas to a chimney that was considerably higher than the existing roofline on a three-story apartment building. He noted in that case, however, the chimney was already constructed. Dave Niblock stated that T-Mobile could construct the chimney extension and then apply to the TTFCG to attach its antennas to the outside of the chimney as a By-Right attachment and probably be recommended by the TTFCG. He said he thought the faux chimney design was better because the antennas would be concealed and not be visible to the nearby residents. Ms. Lawton said she appreciated the "stealth" design, but that such a large chimney would be very unsightly and it would be nearly twice the height of the existing building.

Pat Hanehan asked if the other existing chimney, which is taller than the proposed chimney, could be used instead. Mr. Weber replied that the proposed chimney was in the center of the building and would be a better location for the equipment support structure and the antennas.

Jim Krause moved the application be approved.

Jane Lawton asked for discussion, commenting that she was concerned this application would set a precedent for carriers to have all sorts of ideas of placing antennas on existing structures concealed in odd ways that were not compatible with the residential area.

Ms. Lawton asked the Tower Coordinator if alternative locations had been considered for this site, and if RF documentation had been reviewed. Bob Hunnicutt replied that T-Mobile had provided RF information and that CTC's review verified there was a gap in coverage for this area, and that this new location would provide T-Mobile's desired coverage requirements. He said he did not examine alternative locations for this application because it was a By-Right attachment and initially, the increase in chimney height was only 5', not the 18' height the carrier now proposes.

Ms. Lawton requested that the Tower Coordinator conduct a site survey to see if there are other taller structures in the area that would accommodate these antennas without constructing a very tall chimney at this location. He reviewed the site survey information in the file and noted that the nearest site in the TTFCG database was a half-mile away, and T-Mobile's nearest site appeared to be 1.5 miles from this location. Mr. Hunnicutt stated there had been two prior proposals for sitings in this area; one was to place a short light pole at Mrs. Kay's Tollhouse restaurant parking lot with a much taller monopole, and another application to replace an existing PEPCO utility pole approximately one block from this church. He stated that both applications were withdrawn by the carriers.

Ms. Lawton asked if there was a second to the motion to recommend the application. There was no second, and the motion failed. Ms. Lawton asked the Tower Coordinator what was needed to reevaluate this application. Mr. Hunnicutt stated he could revisit the site to see if other tall buildings or structures were candidates for attachment, and if so, he could request additional RF review by the applicant.

Mr. Weber said T-Mobile would conduct another engineering review of this siting, but hoped that this application could be acted upon today conditioned on that review rather than delay action until a future date.

Motion: Pat Hanehan moved that the application be tabled until the Tower Coordinator could examine alternative sites and the carrier could provide additional supporting RF information to document whether alternative sites identified would suffice and whether the false chimney height could be less than 18 feet. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion to table the application and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to replace an existing 60' athletic field light pole with a new 130' monopole, attach six 54" panel antennas (two per sector) on a low-profile platform at the 127' level, and reattach the ball field lights at the 60' level. The monopole will be located at John F. Kennedy High School located at 1901 Randolph Road in Rockville (Application #200406-04).

Dave Randolph summarized the application and noted that replacement of an alternate light pole on the property had been considered, but from an engineering perspective, replacement of either pole would meet the desired coverage requirements. However, he added that upon further consideration, replacement of the original pole as proposed appeared to be a more suitable site as far as the aesthetic aspects and access to this site for the carrier, as well as minimizing interference with school activities.

Pat Hanehan added that the School Principal and PTA Group reviewed this application, and both agreed to the original location proposed by T-Mobile.

Dave Niblock asked if the community had been involved in determining the location of this structure. Pat Hanehan stated that would be done as part of the Mandatory Referral process. Jane Lawton commented that she was not sure the Mandatory Referral process would provide adequate notification to residents, especially during this summer vacation period, and asked if the Public Schools provided their own notification to residents. Mr. Hanehan replied they do not, and explained the process generally works as follows: first, they check with the School Principal for permission to site at the facility; next, they work with school and carrier staff to determine an appropriate location on the property for the structure; and then the application is submitted to the TTFCG. After the TTFCG recommends the application, it goes before the Planning Commission, which conducts a review that includes a public notice process to the neighboring property owners.

Ms. Lawton said she knew the Park and Planning Commission would notify residents immediately adjacent to the facility, but she thought it would be appropriate to notify area community associations as well.

Ms. Lawton asked the Tower Coordinator if the existing wooden PEPCO utility poles visible in the site photos could be used to attach antennas. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that the photo was misleading and that wooden poles were not considered because they were actually at an elevation lower than the field itself, and so would be far too low to meet the coverage objectives. Hillorie Morrison agreed with that assessment.

Mr. Hunnicutt said he had suggested the alternative pole replacement because the ground elevation for that pole was higher than the pole proposed, and it appeared that it might have been possible to use a shorter monopole that would have a lesser impact on the community. He stated that T-Mobile had conducted a balloon test at both pole locations, and based on those results, it appeared a shorter structure at the alternative location would be more intrusive to the residential properties to the northeast than the taller structure in the originally proposed location.

Helen Xu asked if T-Mobile had notified nearby residents of the balloon test. Ms. Morrison stated they had not, and she was not aware of any requirement to do so. Ms. Morrison added that notice to nearby residents during the Park and Planning Commission review, the carrier will meet with Commission staff to decide which areas should be notified. Carlton Gilbert asked if T-Mobile was already working with Commission staff. Ms. Morrison replied they had been in touch with Fred Wood, and added the original site proposed was not as visible from Randolph Road as the alternative suggested by the Tower Coordinator.

Motion: Jim Krause moved the application be recommended. Carlton Gilbert seconded and the motion was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to replace an existing 60' athletic field light pole with a new 143' monopole, attach nine antennas on a low-profile platform at the 140' level, and reattach the lights at the 60' level. The monopole will be placed on Blake High School property located at 300 Norwood Road in Silver Spring (Application #200407-05).

Dave Randolph summarized the application. Bob Hunnicutt noted that this was an extremely large parcel of property for this school. Pat Hanehan added that it was 100 acres, and noted that there was a small piece of property that contained an historical site that was surrounded by the school property.

Mr. Hunnicutt asked T-Mobile if they had obtained approval for this site by the Maryland Historical Society. Rich Rothrock of T-Mobile stated that they had contacted the Society but had not yet received a determination. Mr. Rothrock also stated he wished to amend the application to note that the existing light structure was 75' tall and not 60' as shown in the application. Jane Lawton suggested that if recommended, this application should be conditioned on obtaining approval by the Maryland Historical Society.

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval by the Maryland Historical Society. Helen Xu seconded the motion and it was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 100' monopole and attach three 54" panel antennas at the 98' level. The monopole will be placed on Fairland Elementary School property located at 14315 Fairdale Road in Silver Spring (Application #200407-06).

Dave Randolph summarized the application and noted that this was for a new 100' monopole. Hillorie Morrison noted the structure would be located behind the building to minimize the visual impact in the community. Pat Hanehan noted that this site was also adjacent to M-NCPPC park property that screened the site somewhat. Mr. Hanehan stated that the property was along the main road accessing the site just before approaching the school. Ms. Lawton asked whether there was a better and smaller stealth type design that would be suitable for this location because the structure appeared to be rather intrusive because of the diameter of the pole, and asked if it had to be so large. Ms. Morrison replied that the antennas and cables contained within the sheathing around the structure required that it be of the proposed diameter.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Jim Krause seconded the motion and it was approved with Pat Hanehan abstaining.

Discussion Item - WMET Update: Jane Lawton recognized Sharon Levine of the Montgomery Village Foundation who was in attendance to hear discussion of the Sprint/PEPCO application, but also had an interest in the activation of WMET's broadcast facility.

Ms. Lawton noted that WMET's increased its transmitting power from 1,000 watts to 50,000 watts under a minor modification under the FCC's rules. Ms. Levine stated that was correct, and noted the FCC had no notice requirements for minor modifications except for publication in the Federal Register. She noted that once the station had increased power to 50,000 watts, she had received additional complaints of interference with telephone service in the area. She said that initially, the station owners had assured the Foundation they would provide filters at no cost to residents within the one-millivolt contour. She said the owners now say they will only provide nearby residents with information on how the residents could purchase the filters at their own expense.

Ms. Levine asked what, if anything, the TTFCG could do to assist the residents in that area to encourage WMET to be more responsive to interference complaints. She said of the complaints of interference with computers in the area, all of those computers were accessing the Internet using landline phones. Ms. Lawton noted the Foundation had been documenting the complaints it had received from residents, and suggested the Foundation go back to the congressional representatives that were involved in the initial meetings on this matter with the Planning Commission staff. She suggested that bringing the complaints and lack of WMET's responsiveness to them to the FCC's attention might have greater weight if they ask their congressional representatives to assist them. Bob Hunnicutt noted he had researched the application status and found that WMET had been granted permission to begin broadcasting at 50,000 watts on June 30, 2004, and there was a three-month period during which they could operate at that power prior to obtaining a license by the FCC, and that it was likely the FCC would grant their final license for operating at that frequency and power before the end of the three-month period. He said the FCC documentation showed there had been no public comment regarding interference complaints received by the FCC, and if the Foundation and area residents wanted to bring this matter before the FCC, they ought to do so during this trial period, when they would potentially have a greater influence in encouraging improved responsiveness by WMET.

Discussion Item - Distributed Antenna Services: Jane Lawton noted that Marilyn Praisner had requested a

meeting to discuss changes to the Executive Regulations to permit Distributed Antenna Services as a new category under the fee structure for filing applications. She said she would keep the TTFCG and carriers apprised of activity regarding this matter. Steven Weber asked if there was any formal documentation for the carriers to review. Ms. Lawton replied that the current activity was strictly at the staff level, but should anything become available in writing, she would provide it to the carrier representatives.

Discussion Item - Cellular Interference with Remote Locking Devices: Jane Lawton commented on a Washington Post article regarding cellular interference with automatic car door locks. She stated that the jurisdiction was reported to be working with carriers to overcome problems of interference with remote control door locking devices on some automobiles, and suggested the members review that article.

Discussion Item - Next Meeting: The next meeting of the TTFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, August 11, 2004 but at present it appeared that it would be cancelled since neither she nor Mr. Hunnicutt would be able to attend, and thought that others may be away on vacation as well. She said that if that were the case, all participants would be notified.